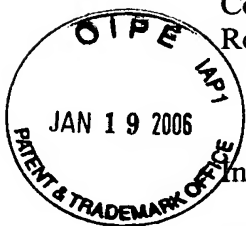


App. No. 10/607,613
Comments Dated 1/17/06
Response To Notice of Allow. dated 10/31/05



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of)

Keirmasz, et al.)

Application No: 10/607,613)

Filed: June 27, 2003)

For: PLATEN WITH DIAPHRAGM)
AND METHOD FOR OPTIMIZING)
WAFFER POLISHING)

) Examiner: Rachuba, M.T.

) Art Unit: 3723

) Atty. Docket No: LAM2P421

) Date: January 17, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 17, 2006

Signed: _____
Kay Harlow

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Honorable Commissioner:

In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed October 31, 2005, please consider the following comments on statement of reasons for allowance in the captioned application.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Reference is made to the Reasons For Allowance stated on page 2 of the Notice of Allowance. It is respectfully submitted that the stated reasons quote only from independent claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the Reasons be revised to refer only to claim 1. For example, the Reasons refer to the prior art not disclosing or fairly teaching:

a membrane covering all of the one or more of the at least two apertures that define each of the at least one localized fluid-pressure platen zones,

This text conforms to the text of independent claim 1. On the other hand, independent claim 3 defines:

a membrane covering the one or more of the at least two apertures that define each of the at least one localized fluid-pressure platen zones,

Also, independent claim 8 defines:

at least one fluid-pressure platen zone comprising at least one fluid-pressure port for transferring fluid-pressure fluid relative to the at least one fluid-bearing platen zone and the polishing pad,

Also, independent claim 14 defines:

a membrane corresponding to each localized fluid-pressure platen zone, each membrane covering respective ones of the apertures corresponding to a respective one of the localized fluid-pressure platen zones,

Also, independent claim 18 defines a method in terms different than those set forth in the Statement.

As to independent claim 3 that was objected to and then allowed in the present form, it is respectfully submitted that it would be appropriate for the Statement to also refer to the prior art not disclosing or fairly teaching the first and second sections as defined in claim 3.

As to independent claim 8 that was allowed in the present form, it is respectfully submitted that it would be appropriate for the Statement to also refer to the prior art not disclosing or fairly teaching the member defining the flexible pocket as defined in claim 8.


As to independent claim 14, it is submitted that it would be appropriate for the Statement to also refer to the prior art not disclosing or fairly teaching the each membrane sealed to the fluid-bearing structure around the respective ones of the apertures as defined in claim 14.

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As to independent claim 18 that was the subject of comments in the advisory action, and then allowed in the present form, it is submitted that it would be appropriate for the Statement to also refer to the prior art not disclosing or fairly teaching the operation of providing the platen with a first aperture communicating with a self-contained localized fluid-pressure platen zone as defined in claim 18.

Respectfully submitted,

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